

Report of the  
Board of Regents

National Library of Medicine  
Long Range Plan

# Improving Health Professionals' Access to Information



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# **Improving Health Professionals' Access to Information**

## Foreword

When the Board of Regents in 1988 directed that a panel be assembled to consider how health professionals could best take advantage of the services offered by the National Library of Medicine, we set in motion a planning process that moved forward with remarkable efficiency and ended with laudable results. The Board, on June 6, 1989, unanimously approved the report for incorporation in the Long Range Plan,\* and applauded the leadership of its Chairman, Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., and the hard work of all the members. Now begins the challenge—to assemble the resources and to implement the recommendations.

Edward N. Brandt, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
*Chairman, Board of Regents  
National Library of Medicine*

## Preface

Last year, when I was approached to chair the NLM Outreach Planning Panel, I eagerly accepted. My connection with the NLM goes back some 40 years and I consider the Library one of our Nation's scientific and cultural treasures. The purpose of our Panel was to find techniques for disseminating to health professionals the information they need to minister to their patients in the most efficient and effective way possible. We did not reach our conclusions lightly; we did so in full recognition of the serious fiscal constraints faced by the Federal government. Nevertheless, it is our judgment that the sum needed to implement this program would be repaid many times in higher quality medical care and, ultimately, in human lives saved. The report represents much serious discussion and diligent effort on the part of the Panel members. They gave unselfishly of their time and talent, and I thank them on behalf of the Library. I am also grateful to Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg, the NLM Director, and to the capable NLM staff members who assisted us; their fine work made ours easier.

Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.  
*Chairman, Outreach Planning Panel*

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\* National Library of Medicine. Long range plan; report of the NLM Board of Regents. Bethesda, Md.: National Library of Medicine, January 1987.

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